

Exhibit A

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**Disclosure RSW8-2000-0109**

Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Created By Mark Molander On [REDACTED] 11:10:20 PM EDT
 Last Modified By wpts1 wpts1 On 06/13/2002 04:15:43 PM EDT
 Archived on 04/13/2002

Required fields are marked with the asterisk (*) and must be filled in to complete the form .

*Title of disclosure (in English)
 Multiple Functions per Menu Object

Summary

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Status | Final Decision . (File) |
| Final deadline | |
| Final deadline reason | |
| Docket family | RSW8-2001-0012 |
| * Processing location | Raleigh - RSW |
| * Functional area | (RSW) Tivoli; Other |
| Attorney/Patent professional | Gerald R Woods/Raleigh/IBM |
| IDT team | Gerald R Woods/Raleigh/IBM John Whitfield/Tivoli Systems Art Psalidas/Tivoli Systems Mike Primm/Tivoli Systems Mark Molander/Raleigh/IBM Denis McFadden/Tivoli Systems ron baker/tivoli systems Kent Hayes Jr/Tivoli Systems David E Cox/Tivoli Systems |
| Submitted date | [REDACTED] 12:28:18 AM EDT |
| * Owning division | TIV |
| Incentive program | (INC10) Tivoli Special Patent Incentive |
| Lab | |
| * Technology code | |

Inventors with a Blue Pages entry

Inventors: Mark Molander/Raleigh/IBM@IBMUS

| Inventor Name | Inventor Serial | Div/Dept | Inventor Phone | Manager Name |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------|----------------------|
| Molander, M.E. (Mark) | 508775 | 48/TV0A | N/A | O'Neal, C.P. (Paige) |

> denotes primary contact

Inventors without a Blue Pages entry**IDT Selection**

Attorney/Patent professional
 Gerald R Woods/Raleigh/IBM

RSWB-2000-0109 Multiple Functions per Menu Object - continued

IDT team

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Response due to IP&L [REDACTED]

Main Idea

To view the Main Idea of this disclosure, open the "Main Idea" document from the view

*Critical Questions (Questions 1-9 must be answered in English)

*Question 1

On what date was the invention workable? [REDACTED] Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY
(Workable means i.e. when you know that your design will solve the problem)

*Question 2

Is there any planned or actual publication or disclosure of your invention to anyone outside IBM?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.

Publication/Patent:

Date Published or Issued:

Are you aware of any publications, products or patents that relate to this invention?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.

Publication/Patent:

Date Published or Issued:

*Question 3

Has the subject matter of the invention or a product incorporating the invention been sold, used internally in manufacturing, announced for sale, or included in a proposal?

☐ Yes
☒ No

Is a sale, use in manufacturing, product announcement, or proposal planned?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If Yes, Identify the product if known and indicate the date or planned date of sale, announcements, or proposal and to whom the sale, announcement or proposal has been or will be made.

Product:

Version/Release:

Code Name:

Date:

To Whom:

If more than one, use cut and paste and append as necessary in the field provided.

*Question 4

Was the subject matter of your invention or a product incorporating your invention used in public, e.g., outside IBM or in the presence of non-IBMers?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, give a date. Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY

RSW3-2000-0109 Multiple Functions per Menu Object - continued

***Question 5**

Have you ever discussed your invention with others not employed at IBM?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, identify individuals and date discussed. Fill in the text area with the following information, the names of the individuals, the employer, date discussed, under CDA, and CDA #.

***Question 6**

Was the invention, in any way, started or developed under a government contract or project?

☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not sure

If Yes, enter the contract number

***Question 7**

Was the invention made in the course of any alliance, joint development or other contract activities?

☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not Sure

If Yes, enter the following:

Name of Alliance, Contractor or Joint Developer

Contract ID number

Relationship contact name

Relationship contact E-mail

Relationship contact phone

***Question 8**

Have you, or any of the other inventors, submitted this same invention disclosure or similar invention disclosure previously?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If Yes, please provide disclosure number below:

***Question 9**

Are you, or any of the other inventors, aware of any related inventions disclosures submitted by anyone in IBM previously?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If Yes, please provide the docket or disclosure number or any other identifying information below:

Question 10

What type of companies do you expect to compete with inventions of this type? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Manufacturers of enterprise servers
- ☐ Manufacturers of entry servers
- ☐ Manufacturers of workstations
- ☐ Manufacturers of PC's
- ☐ Non-computer manufacturers
- ☒ Developers of operating systems
- ☒ Developers of networking software
- ☒ Developers of application software
- ☒ Integrated solution providers
- ☒ Service providers
- ☐ Other (Please specify below)

RSWB-2000-0109 Multiple Functions per Menu Object - continued

Question 11

If the invention relates to a product or service that is outside the scope of your business unit, please recommend IBM business unit(s), IBM location(s) or individual(s) within IBM that you think would provide a good evaluation of your invention:

***Patent Value Tool (Optional - this may be used by the inventor and attorney to assist with the evaluation**

(The Patent Value tool can be used by the inventor(s) to determine the potential licensing value of your invention.)

Market

***Question 1:** What is the anticipated annual market size (in dollars) that will be captured by your invention?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

Claims

***Question 1:** How new is the technical field?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

***Question 2:** How central is the invention to the product(s) which might be expected to contain the invention?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

***Question 3:** What is the scope of the claim?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

Portfolio Need

***Question 1:** What are the portfolio needs in the area of your invention?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

Exploitation & Enforcement

***Question 1:** How easily can the use of the invention by a competitor be detected?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

***Question 2:** How easily can the use of the invention be avoided by a competitor?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

Business Value

***Question 1:** What percentage of the companies producing products in the field of this invention might use this invention?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

***Question 2:** What is the value of this patent to current or anticipated Alliance Activity between IBM and other companies?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

***Question 3:** What is the value of this patent to current or anticipated Technology Transfer Activity

RSW8-2000-0109 Multiple Functions per Menu Object - continued

between IBM and other companies?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

***Question 4:** Does it result in prestige to IBM?

Reason(s) for above Answer:

Evaluation

This team evaluation was entered by Linda Dupont/Raleigh/IBM on [REDACTED]

What is the team's evaluation of this disclosure? Search

Date evaluated: [REDACTED]

Evaluation comments

| Final Evaluation History | Who made the final evaluation | Final evaluation date |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Search | Linda Dupont/Raleigh/IBM | [REDACTED] |

Search Information

Date sent: [REDACTED] *Target completion date: [REDACTED] Search results received date: [REDACTED]

Who was the search sent to (This area is to designate a Local Searcher name or WAIPL):

*Search type: ☒ Patentability ☐ Clearance ☐ Validity ☐ State of Art

*Features to be searched: Please conduct a Patentability search on the subject disclosure.

Search Office Information

Target completion date: [REDACTED] ☐ Search has been delayed Ship/Return date: [REDACTED]

Search conducted by Vitello

Comments

Final Decision

This decision was entered by Linda Dupont/Raleigh/IBM on [REDACTED]

Decision: File

Status: N/A

PPM area:

Date of final decision: [REDACTED]

Additional filing information

Planned Filing date:

Filing comments:

Additional decision comments

Final Decision History

Entered on [REDACTED] by Linda Dupont

File N/A [REDACTED] Docket Family: RSW820010012

Post Disclosure Text & Drawings

RSW8-2000-0109 Multiple Functions per Menu Object - continued

To add additional information related to this disclosure once it has been submitted, click the action button below and a new document will be opened for you to enter the new information. To view existing post disclosure information, double-click on the item in the list below (if there has been additional information entered), and the document will open for you to view.

Date entered Post disclosure comments and drawings (double-click an item below to view)

At the [REDACTED] Review Board meeting it was decided that this invention needed a couple of clarifications and enhancements before getting rated "Search"...

Make Text Clearer

Make text clearer that each menu choice has potentially MORE than one function. Today's menu choices are always single function - e.g., launch a window, perform an immediate action, make a setting, display a cascaded menu, etc. For example, "Microsoft Word" will always launch an application window, or "Microsoft Word >" (a different menu choice) would display a cascaded menu, but never would both functions (launch and cascade) be simultaneously available for the same menu choice. However, in this invention menu choices can have 2 or more functions per choice. Figures 3/4 show an example of how a single menu choice can have one button-like area on the left that will launch Microsoft Word and another area on right side of choice that will cascade another menu, giving a single menu choice two functions, or "choices" if you will.

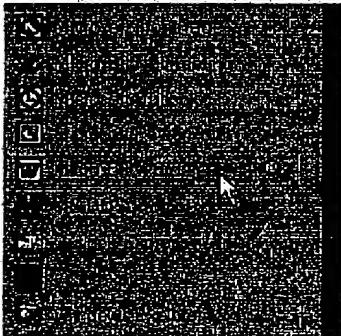
Traditionally each menu item that one can select is called a "menu choice"; however, we might need to be clear and perhaps use new terms. We could call each grouping of menu functions as a "menu row" and each function within a row a "menu choice", which would map fine with the current industry terms.

Additional Images

More illustrations were also desired, including a "spinner" type of function in which the user could dynamically change menu choices. I've used a drop-down instead of a true spinner since drop-downs are so popular on tool bars these days and they look cleaner, but they'd both do the same thing.

Here they are some new images:

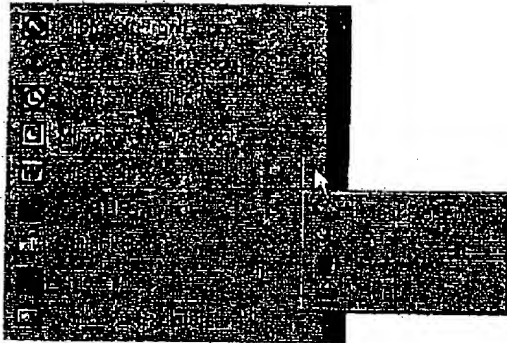
Pointer over the "menu row". The three button choices are all shown on pointer fly over (1- Microsoft Word - start the application, 2 - Search for or within all the Word Docs, and 3 - Drop down to select different secondary function):



FigBase2.gif

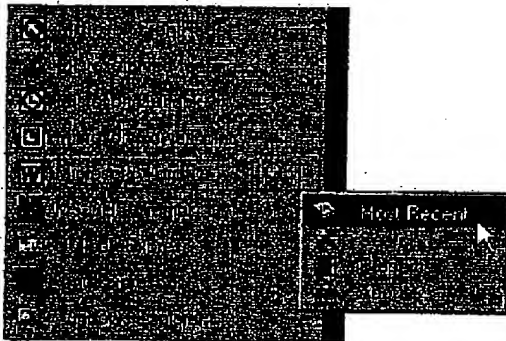
User has selected 3rd choice on menu row to bring up list of choices for the 2nd choice. There are 4 choices:

RSW8-2000-0109 Multiple Functions per Menu Object - continued



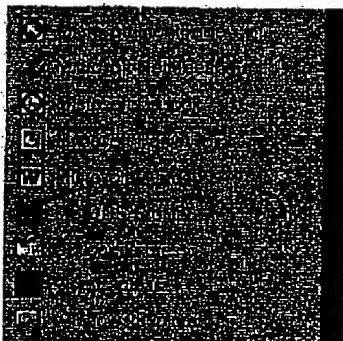
FigChange.gif

User is about to select "Most Recent" setting, which will display cascade of the most recent Word docs so user can immediately jump into the right document. Other settings might include "Properties", which would show a properties notebook for the application, and "About", which would give the version, version date, install information, etc.:



FigChange2.gif

The last image below shows the menu after "Most Recent" was set. Notice that the mouse pointer is not on the menu row so the secondary choices on the right look dimmed (no roll over emphasis):



FigChange3.gif

Form Revised 08/01/02)

Main Idea for Disclosure RSWB-2000-0109 - continued

**Main Idea for Disclosure RSWB-2000-0109**

Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Archived On [REDACTED] 12:03:34 AM

Title of disclosure (In English)

Multiple Functions per Menu Object

Main Idea

1. Describe your invention, stating the problem solved (if appropriate), and indicating the advantages of using the invention.

The essence of this invention is to allow for more than one option per menu item. Menus today only offer one choice per menu object; however, sometimes a menu choice invokes an action or a dialog, and sometimes it cascades another lower-level menu. This invention would allow a single object in a menu to do both: to initiate an action such as to start an application, and to also cascade other sub-choices for that item. Although possibly less compelling, it could also be used to provide other types of options such as additional buttons to bring up properties, logs, multiple-column details cascades (e.g. leaf node name, size, and last update), to surface all open instances, etc.

2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage, (a description of "the invention", including figures inline as appropriate)?

I came up with this idea when designing a web-based document that will have menu access to chapters and sections for the Tivoli UI Guidelines. Certain high-level sections (e.g., "menus") need high-level content. Therefore, they need a menu option that leads to such a view. High-level sections might also need lower-level sections (e.g., "menus" has sub-sections such as "context menus", "pull-down menus", and "cascade menus"). For this the high-level menu item could benefit from an additional button to cascade the sub-sections.

Here's a series of examples that progressively illustrates how the invention could work in a launching menu (i.e., the Start Menu). This might also be generalizable to other launchers such as the Tivoli Console's Portfolio as well as to some menu pulldowns and context menu systems:

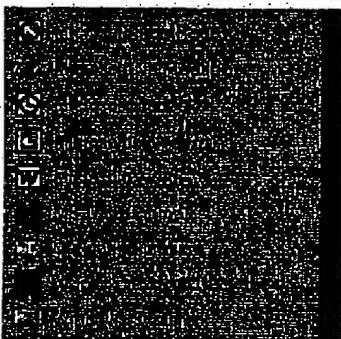


Figure 1 - Undoctored Section of a Start Menu

Main Idea for Disclosure RSW8-2000-0109 - continued

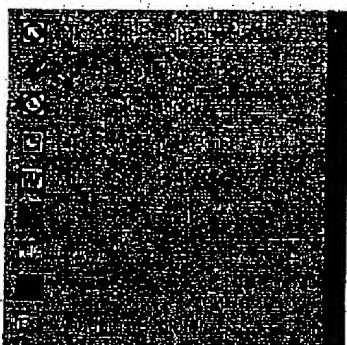


Figure 2 - Same Section of Start Menu, but with Multiple Functions for 2 of the Items

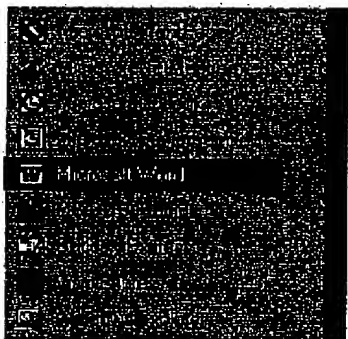


Figure 3 - Launcher Option with Selection Emphasis

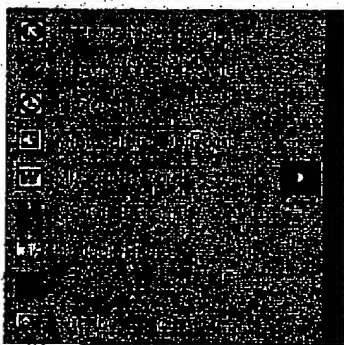


Figure 4 - Cascade Option with Selection Emphasis

Main Idea for Disclosure RSWB-2000-0109 - continued

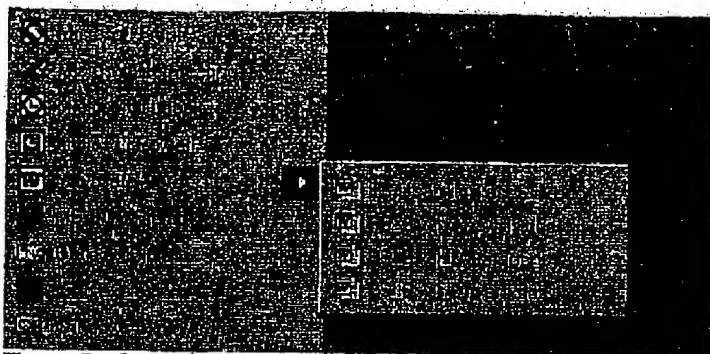


Figure 5 - Cascade Choices - Last 4 Word Documents

In Figures 2-5 above the user could either directly start a recent Word document via the cascade or start Word empty, without any content via the higher-level launcher option. If the user has set Word to keep the last four saved documents in its recently-used list, then perhaps this same list is accessible via the Start menu as shown above.

The other example of the benefits of providing multiple functions per menu object is the web-document example briefly described earlier. Since the content is different on the high-level nodes from their sub-level nodes, having both the launch and cascade functions at the higher-level nodes saves the integrity of the tree structure in the menu. The alternative would be to have the higher-level node's content launch from a similarly labeled and lower-level node in the cascade, which would be kludgy and potentially confusing.

3. If the same advantage or problem has been identified by others (inside/outside IBM), how have those others solved it and does your solution differ and why is it better?

This invention provides usability enhancements by providing more functions and making them more immediately accessible for users. It also allows for UI designers to save the inherent natural benefits of tree structures in menus while simultaneously providing multiple functions per menu object. It might allow for even more usages of menus, which could be quite beneficial because menus provide such a quick and easy way to probe hierarchical arrangements of functions.

4. If the invention is implemented in a product or prototype, include technical details, purpose, disclosure details to others and the date of that implementation.
It is not currently planned for any product

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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/845,537 | 04/30/2001 | Mark E. Molander | RSW920010012US1 | 3398 |
| 40412 | 7590 | 11/23/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| IBM CORPORATION- AUSTIN CO VAN LEEUWEN & VAN LEEUWEN PO BOX 81641 AUSTIN, TX 78758-1641 | | | PESIN, BORIS M | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2174 | |

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

R105

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/845,537

Applicant(s)

MOLANDER, MARK E.

Examiner

Boris Pesin

Art Unit

2174

-The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

THE REPLY FILED 28 October 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.135(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☒ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☐ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: _____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____.

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Continuation Sheet (PTOL-303)

Application No. 09/845,537

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: The affidavit raises new issues that would require further consideration and search.

PATENT

K. APPENDIX - RELATED PROCEEDINGS

Not applicable.

Docket No. RSW920010012US1

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Molander - 09/845,537

Atty Ref. No. IBM-R105

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